News-item captioned "Anti-Rajneesh campaign may turn violent"

790. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item which appeared in the 'Indian Express' of the 15th February, 1987 captioned "Anti-Rajneesh campaign may turn violent"; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to keep a vigil on the activities of Rajneesh's followers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Government have seen the Press report. The State Government has been requested to take appropriate action with regard to the maintenance of law and order. Government is maintaining watch on the situation.

Passport offices in Gujarat

791. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that long time is taken in the issuance of passports;

(b) whether it is due to the lengthy procedure or due to the inadequate administrative facilities at various passport offices;

(c) what steps have been taken to improve the situation;

(d) how many applications for passport are pending at present in Gujarat and how long it will take to clear them; and

(e) whether Government propose to open more passport offices in Gujarat to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) and (b) passports are issued only after receipt of verification reports from the State Police/CID authorities. Therefore, the time taken to issue passports is linked with the submission of reports by State Police authorities.

(c) The Passport Offices have been directed to remind regularly the State Police/CID authorities to send their reports as early as possible. On receipts of clear report in the normal course, the Passport Officers are under orders to issue passports within a week.

(d) 14,216 applications for passports are pending in the Passport office, Ahmedabad (Gujarat) as on 31-1-1987 for want of verifications reports from the police authorities or full particulars from the applicants etc. As soon as positive information is received passports would be issued in these cases to the applicants.

(e) No, Sir.

Export of Indian textiles

792. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what was the annual exports of Indian textiles during the three years prior to the announcement of new textile policy;

(b) what is the annual export of Indian textiles after the announcement of new textile policy;

(c) whether the various objectives set while framing the new textile policy are being fulfilled; if so, what are the details of achievements made on each one of the objectives of new textile policy; and